(e) and (f) EIC have devised a detailed complaint handling mechanism under which a processing unit, against whom complaint has been received is put on alert and monitoring of the unit, by the officials of EIC/Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), is made more stringent. EIC/EIAs carry out detailed investigations in each case to ascertain the exact cause and source of the contamination and take further necessary steps with a view to prevent the cause of such contamination.

SEZs to Promote investment in export oriented activities

1078. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established in various parts of the country in order to promote investments in export oriented activities;

(b) the difference between Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and (SEZs);

(c) the number of EPZs and SEZs approved and established in the State of Jharkhand;

(d) whether Government had announced in the Exim Policy-2001 about setting up of SEZs;

(e) the number of SEZs approved since then and made operational so far; and

(f) the details of SEZs proposed to make operational in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major differences between Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are (i) no minimum export performance stipulation for SEZ units, (ii) domestic sales on payment of full duty allowed for SEZ units against a ceiling of 50% of exports for EPZ units (iii) retention of 100% export earnings by SEZ units in EEFC account; for EPZs this is restricted to 70%, (iv) simplified Custom and Central Excise procedure in SEZs.

(c) No EPZ/SEZ has been approved or established in the State of Jharkhand so far.

(d) to (f) Government had announced a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) scheme in April 2000. As per the policy, the Central Government itself will not to set up any new SEZs. The scheme envisages setting up of SEZ in the public, private, joint sectors or by the State Governments. Further, the existing Export Processing Zones could also be converted into Special Economic Zones. In accordance with the above policy, 8 existing Export Processing Zones located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) have been converted into SEZs.

Based on detailed project reports submitted by the State Governments/private promoters, 3 new SEZs have been formally approved. In addition, 'in principle' approval has been granted for setting up of 14 new SEZs. Since the SEZs have been approved for establishment in the private/joint sector/by the State Governments, it is not possible to indicate a time frame for operationalization of the Zones.

Imports of Cars, Fruits and Vegetables etc.

1079. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep increase in the imports of cars, fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products during 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on domestic manufacturers and producers of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in the imports of cars, fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products during 2002 as can be seen from data on imports contained in the publication Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), which is available in the library of Parliament In the fruits and vegetable